

# **Commentary on Rural Prosperity White Paper**

Reactions to date

# Bureau Leadership

- Need for answers
- Enough emphasis on incentives?
- Need to underscore relationship of agriculture and environment
- Land issue
- Education needs more emphasis

## Role of agriculture

- Decline of traditional agriculture
- Need more attention to farmer organization
- Shifts in comparative advantages

# Bureau Leadership (cont.)

- Transactional vs. Systemic Approaches – needs more attention
- More emphasis on “alliances/partnerships”
- Need to stick with this for a decade or longer
  - Long-term proposition

# Rules of Trade and Market Access

- Too much emphasis on macro and international and not enough on micro and local, domestic and close regional trade/market factors

# Science & Technology

- Reed Hertford' six points
- Need to speak on era of and lessons learned from farming system research

# Access to Assets

## Land:

- Expand discussion of pros & cons/potential and constraints of land redistribution
- Need to discuss role of conflict resolution in titling efforts
- Taxation, use of land as collateral
- Hernan de Soto's work
- Access by Rental option

# Access to Assets (cont.)

- Importance of issue of collateral and credit

## Education:

- More emphasis on human capital
  - Relationship to access to other assets  
(Birdsall work)

# Vulnerability

- MEWS

# Economic Governance

- Rule of law needs more attention
- Potential role of U.S. business community in improving developing country governance
- Use of business taxes
- Definition (implicity) too broad, need/want specific definition
- Need to clarify “right” type of decentralization of governance (Decentralization per se, not necessarily good)